MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 April 1970
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 April 1970

I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

A regular monthly meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on April 15, 1970. The members met pursuant to notice -- the Chairman indicated he would be late in arriving and the meeting was convened by Mr. Sasaki at 10:20 a.m.

Present were: Gordon Bunshaft
Hidéo Sasaki
Chloethiel Woodard Smith
John Walker

Staff: Charles H. Atherton, Sec.
Daniel D. Reiff

II. ADMINISTRATION

a. Dates of Next Meetings

Date of the next meeting was tentatively set for May 20th. It was noted that the Commission will have been in existence 60 years as of May 17.

b. The minutes of the meeting of February 25th were approved.

III. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

1. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

a. Shipstead-Luce Act

(1) American Institute of Architects Headquarters Building, 18th and New York Ave., N.W. - Revised Design

The revised designs were compared with those submitted at the January meeting. Major changes were confined to a refinement in the treatment of the entranceway on the ground floor and the projection of the board room on the second floor. A series of diagonal walls, parallel to the axis of the Octagon were introduced on the first floor and appeared to provide a much better relationship to the garden while at the same time improving the entrance. Projection of the board room on the second floor was considerably reduced. It was generally agreed that the design had been greatly improved and a motion was passed to approve.

(2) Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Operations Control Center Building, Sq. 487 bounded by G, F, 6th and 5th Sts.

The Secretary noted a number of complex internal problems

which had led to the architects shifting what would normally be the central mechanical core to an area adjoining the entire west elevation. These problems included the alignment of the subway which passed under one corner of the building, required parking facilities and large unobstructed machine areas which would be used in the control of the subway system. The design was generally well received with minor critical commentary confined to details of the west elevation. Further discussion withheld pending a meeting with the architects.

(3) 425 2nd St., N.W., New Office Building - Proposed Design (S.L. 70-30)

The design was disapproved on the basis that it lacked appropriate architectural character and that a one story building with large amounts of surface parking midway between the Capitol and Union Station could hardly contribute to the orderly development of the area.

EXHIBIT A

(4) Appendix 1

Approved.

EXHIBIT B'

b. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2

Approved

EXHIBIT B²

2. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

Preliminary Master Plan for the Organization of American States Headquarters and Chancery Sites and the Federal Office Complex, Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road, N.W.

Following explanation of the legislative background, a description of the various components of the plan and a detailing of the restraints imposed by the architects for the development, a number of questions were raised by the members. Principally, they centered around the desirability of mixing relatively small foreign office buildings with structures of a much greater scale. Also noted was the inconsistency of the development along Van Ness Street where on the north the Federal complex would consist of a single development of some 2 million square feet of office space and on the south a series of lots would provide for the erection of comparatively small offices. It was generally agreed that there ought to be a more consistent urban character along Van Ness Street. While the locations on Connecticut Avenue for the OAS Headquarters Building and the Federal Complex appeared to be acceptable it was generally agreed that there ought to be some

gradual transition between the smaller chanceries and that the controls and allocation of space ought to take this into account. Further discussion withheld pending a meeting with the architect.

3. D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Waterfront Proposal, Site E

Marina structures were approved on the basis that the same materials used on other waterfront projects would be used. The only comment involved the surface parking adjoining Water Street. While it was pointed out that the architects depressed and screened the area so that the views from the main street would be minimized, Mrs. Smith still noted that it would be visible from the adjoining high rise apartment buildings. However the members felt it was acceptable particularly since a large num ber of trees were planted throughout the paved area. EXHIBIT C

4. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

a. Father Flanagan Memorial, Michigan Avenue and Harewood Road, N.W. - Revised Design

The concept of a series of abstract free-standing metal forms with surface bas relief was considered interesting, but only as a concept. The effectiveness of such a design would depend very much on the size of the objects and the space surrounding them and it was requested that before any further comment be made, a model should be provided that would show in scale the adjoining streets and buildings surrounding the site. EXHIBIT D

At this point Mr. Walton assumed the chair.

b. Kenilworth Information-Recreation Center - Mouth of Watts Branch on Eastern Shore of the Anacostia River Below Kenilworth Gardens - Proposed Developed Area Plan

The general impression of the design was poor, and that it looked more like a farm utility structure than a boat house or a public recreation facility.

Further discussion withheld pending a meeting with the architects.

5. Institute of Heraldry

Secretary of Defense Distinguished Service Medal

The design was approved. EXHIBIT E

IV. LEGISLATION

1. S. 3206 - To appropriate a site for a museum of man for the Smithsonian Institution.

No objection

2. H.R. 15622 - To provide for establishment of a memorial in the National Arboretum to Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe.

Disapproved. As in previous deliberations, the members felt the Arboretum was not the place to re-erect the original columns from the east front of the Capitol.

V. INTERVIEWS

1. D. C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Operations Building Sq. 487 bounded by G, F, 6th and 5th Sts., Proposed Design, (S.L. 70-32)

There was some discussion about the reservations the members had on details of the west elevation. It was concluded, however, that the differences in the way in which the details could be handled would not have that much of an affect on the overall design which the members felt was very good. The project was therefore approved. EXHIBIT F

2. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Kenilworth Information-Recreation Center - Mouth of Watts Branch on Eastern Shore of the Anacostia River Below Kenilworth Gardens - Proposed Developed Area Plan

Points brought out in the earlier discussion were reviewed with the architect. In rejecting the design the Commission urged that a special effort be made in this structure which was located in a largely neglected and poor area of the city and that this was an excellent opportunity to improve the location materially. EXHIBIT G

3. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

American Institute of Architects Headquarters Building, 18th and New York Ave., N.W. - Revised Design

After a brief discussion with the architects the Chairman announced the Commission's unanimous approval of the design. Transcript attached. EXHIBIT H

5. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

Preliminary Master Plan for the Organization of American States Headquarters and Chancery Sites and the Federal Office Complex, Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road, N.W.

The reservations regarding the architectural control of buildings adjoining the south side of Van Ness and to the west of the OAS Headquarters site were discussed with the architect. They felt these objections were valid and agreed to restudy the plan, especially in the areas adjoining Van Ness St. and west of the OAS site. Transcript and letter attached.

EXHIBIT I & II

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Submitted,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

STANDARD FORM NO. 6

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. John R. Beemer
Chief, Permit Branch, D. C.
Department of Economic Development

DATE: 4/28/70

FROM : Secretary
Commission of Fine Arts

SUBJECT: S. L. 70-30 (425-2nd Street, N. E.)

This is to supplement action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on April 15th on a proposed office building at 425-2nd Street, N. E. The Commission felt that the character of the design was poor, and that the building is badly sited. The Commission also felt that development with a single-story building and surface parking was not appropriate to a location midway between the Union Station and the Capitol. The Commission recommends that this project be restudied so as to eliminate the above objections.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled tentatively for the week of May 18th, at which time we would be happy to consider any new proposals by the architect.

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton

EXHIBIT A

APR 6 1970

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS

NO SL 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
25	2600 Penna. Ave., NW Humble Oil Service Station	Brick sample: "Calvert" sand moulded Colonial face brick, Rose Red Range TK, distributed by Cushwa Brick & Bldg. Supply Co.
ACTION: App'd. for "Calvert" sand moulded colonial face brick, Rose Red Range TK, 3/3/70.		
26	1203 Penna. Ave., NW Elizabeth Stein	Stucco front wall. Remove intermediate bar in windows & install alum. panels in transome.
ACTION: App'd., provided that new work be painted to match exist. bldg., 3/12/70.		
27	1317 E St., NW Nat'l. Pipe & Tobacco Shop	1 s-f, 18.48 sq-ft sign. Blue plastic ltrs. solvent welded to white plastic bckgd. Sign attached to exist. vertical structural grille members via toggle bolts.
ACTION: App'd., provided bckgd. is flat black or dark grey, & ltrs. are either white or gold, 3/9/70.		
28	1001 D St., NW "Jewels n'Things"	Re-letter 1 exist. 24 sq-ft sign with new copy.
ACTION: App'd., 3/9/70.		
29	550-17th St., NW Federal Deposit Ins. Corp.	2 s-f cast bronze tablets. 20 sq-ft total area.
ACTION: Disap'd. Recom. free-standing sign approx. 2'x4' in area, max. height approx. 4', mounted on 2 square legs, location of sign to be further studied. Suggest area next to planting bed, middle of 1st bay & parallel to 17th St. Light bronze ltrs. on dark bronze bckgd. preferred, 3/11/70.		
31	2928 Macomb St., NW Sheldon Holen	New porch to replace exist. porch.
ACTION: No obj., 3/18/70.		

EXHIBIT 5

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS 4/15/70

NO SL 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
33	2600 Penna. Ave., NW Humble Oil & Ref. Co.	2 s-f signs, 22 sq-ft. One over bay doors. One over sales room.
ACTION:	App'd., 4/7/70.	
34	2801 Davenport St., NW Chas. F. D. Egbert	Change ramp to stair.
ACTION:	App'd., 4/7/70.	
35	1203 Penna. Ave., NW Stein's Dry Cleaning	1 s-f, 22 sq-ft sign flat against bldg. (Reface exist. sign.) Non-illuminated.
ACTION:	App'd., 4/10/70.	
36	211 Penna. Ave., SE Aaron Bellman Liquor Store	1 d-f sign, illuminated. Reading: "Liquor."
ACTION:	App'd., 4/10/70.	
30	425-2nd St., NE Amalgamated Casualty Ins. Co.	New office bldg.
ACTION:	Disap'd. Developm. of site, & design of bldg. unacceptable, 4/15/70.	
Inf. 32	F, G, 5th, & 6th Sts., NW Wash. Met. Area Transit Authority	8-story office bldg.
ACTION:	App'd. Request samples of exterior material for final review, 4/15/70.	
37	1735 New York Ave., NW American Inst. of Architects	Hqtrs. bldg.
ACTION:	App'd. Request subm. of materials for final review, 4/15/70.	

APPENDIX 1

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS APR 6 1970

NO OG 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
91	3000 M St., NW BP Oil Corp.	Replace exist. sign with like kind & size to read "BP Carriage Shop - Gas." 1 d-f sign.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Suggest repainting exist. sign with new identification, 3/18/70.		
92	3344 M St., NW American Security & Trust Co.	Replace exist. showwindow with flush showwindow & single entr. door. Install all new face brick where indicated on drawings.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Suggest projecting metal roof be reduced in height to top of cornice, 3/18/70.		
93	1510 Wisc. Ave., NW David's Specialty Shopes	New store front.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Character of proposed work unsuitable. Suggest restudy, 3/18/70.		
94	1355-28th St., NW Mrs. Joseph Childs	Replace exist. front elec'l. fixture. Install 5 new elec'l. fixtures on rear of bldg. Install 2 new elec'l. fixtures on rear fence.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Suggest lighting fixture more in character with house, 3/18/70.		
95	1680 Wisc. Ave., NW Sonderling Radio Station	2 s-f signs. 26 sq-ft total area.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Suggest free-standing or projecting signs next to entranceway, 3/18/70.		
96	3056 M St., NW Ga-Zang Organic Groceries	1 s-f, marine plywood, 18 sq-ft sign.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Recom. ~~that~~ suitably designed cornice over showwindows incorporating new sign. Text to be limited to name of business, 3/18/70.		

EXHIBIT B 2

NO OG 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
97	1692-31st St., NW John S. Thacher	Constr. rear side trellis in rear garden.

ACTION: No obj. to design, but question legality of height, 3/18/70.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS 4/15/70

NO OG 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
98	1048 Potomac St., NW C.W. Shoemaker & W.A. Volkman, Jr.	Add fire escape & remodel fire damaged front of bldg.
ACTION: No obj. to installation of fire escape, but request further study of Potomac St. elevation. Suggest new doors & windows be treated as a unified whole, eliminating brick panel. Request further subm. of this detail, 4/10/70.		
99	2816 P St., NW Mrs. John Stutsman	Replace exist. light fixture with new.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
100	3114 N St., NW Mr & Mrs Chas. Daly	7' high wood fence with gates.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
101	3112 N St., NW Edward Greensfelder	7' high wood fence with gates.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
102	1694-31st St., NW Stephen Millett	7' brick fence.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
103	1683-32nd St., NW J. C. Stoddard	Build brick powder rm. on rear of exist. residence.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
104	1054-31st St., NW Canal Sq. Associates	Wood plank baffle to cover mechanical equipment on roof.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		

NO OG 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
105	3344 M St., NW Amer. Security & Trust Corp.	Remove exist. store front & install new.
ACTION: Recom'd., provided that lights in showwindow are enlarged. Suggest design follow attached sketch, 4/10/70.		
106	1065-31st St., NW Cannon's Sea Food	1 d-f, 24 sq-ft sign. White ltrs. on wood grained bckgd.
ACTION: No obj. to design, although decorative elements such as the fish are typically suspended from the botto of the sign, 4/10/70.		
Inf. 107	1054-31st St., NW Canal Sq. Assoc.	Canvas banner (sign) hanging from steel support on wood beam reading "Parking."
ACTION: No obj. to design. Suggest bottom of banner be secured by simple horizontal rod extending from bldg., & that sides be stiffened by sewing in thin metal rods along the vertical edges, 4/10/70.		
Inf. 109	3040 M St., NW Canal Sq. Assoc.	3 canvas banners (signs) hanging by cables, from wood beams at roof top.
ACTION: No obj. to design. Suggest bottom of banners be secured by simple horizontal rood extending from bldg., & that sides be stiffened by sewing in thin metal rods along the vertical edges, 4/10/70.		
110	3000 M St., NW BP Oil Corp. Service Station	Repaint exist. sign face with new identification per OG 70-91.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
111	3111 N St., NW Mr & Mrs Waren Cox	New service entr. & front doors. This supercedes earlier app'd. submittal.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		

NO OG 70-	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
112	1510 Wisc. Ave., NW David's Specialty Shop	Constr. new store front. Alternate design included.
ACTION: Recom'd. for scheme with showwindow omitting muntins, 4/10/70.		
113	3206 "O" St., NW Bay-Craft	New lettering on previously exist. sign. 1 s-f, 8-3/4 sq-ft sign. Hanging sign.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
115	3026 Cambridge Pl., NW Don Wallace	Relocate front door, removal of stoop. Rear: Changes to doors & windows of ground & lst fls. Remove shed.
ACTION: Recom'd., 4/10/70.		
116	1050 Potomac St., NW Helen Caton Zust Trust	Replace plaster with drywall, build new partitions. Relocate front door, remove interior stair, install basem. fl. slab & addn
ACTION: Request further inf. incl. elevation of bldg. showing all mechanical equip. on roof. Also request small scale plot plan showing relation of bldg. to open spaces & other bldgs. in the block bordered by M St., Potomac St., the Canal, & 33rd St., 4/10/70.		
Inf. 108	3040 M St., NW Canal Square Associates	Move exist. "parking" sign from northeast corner of bldg. to northwest corner of bldg. To be mounted at same height as exist. location.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Type of illumination & character of sign do not conform to intent of OG Act. Recom. removal & replacement with a sign of more suitable design, such as the banners subm'd. in OG 70-109, 4/15/70.		
114	3056 M St., NW Ga-Zang Organic Groceries	2 s-f wood signs. 6 sq-ft each.
ACTION: Not recom'd. Recom. sign subm'd. previously (Under OG 70-96), but placed in a rectangular frome over cornice. Request resubm. of design, 4/15/70.		

23 April 1970

Dear Mr. Mister:

This will confirm Commission of Fine Arts approval on April 15th of preliminary designs for the development of Site E on the Southwest Waterfront.

The Commission would like to see samples of exterior materials at the time final designs are submitted through the District Government.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Melvin A. Mister
Executive Director
D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency
1325 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C

22 April 1970

Dear Mr. Rowell:

The preliminary sketches for the Boys Town Memorial Sculpture were reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on April 15th.

The reaction to the idea was generally favorable, the only reservation being that of scale. While the size of the figures related well to the larger abstract forms, there was some feeling that the whole assemblage might look too small in a large open area. The members suggested that the architect prepare a simple scale model showing the sculptural group in relation to the surrounding spaces. The model should cover an area large enough to give a true picture of the setting.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. L. A. Rowell
Acting Assistant to the
General Superintendent,
Special Projects
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

EXHIBIT D

23 April 1970

Dear Colonel Voso:

This will confirm the Commission of Fine Arts approval on April 15th of a proposed medal to be awarded by the Department of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Lt Colonel E. J. Voso
Acting Commander
The Institute of Heraldry
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

EXHIBIT E

V. 1

BRIEFER: Do you want a presentation?

MR. WALTON: No. We like it so well we thought we would let Mr. Bunshaft tell you how much we like it.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Yes, we have very little to say. We think it is fine.

We have a couple of little questions.

There is a reason for the elevators and all of that back here. This elevation shows the floor going through here which we think is nicer than this slot.

BRIEFER: Well the slot is the latest. I am sorry to say.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Sometimes you don't get better when you work longer.

I think we have two comments:

(1) We think this is better.

(2) You could eliminate the windows and the stairs. This is a legal stair?

BRIEFER: Yes.

MR. BUNSHAFT: I think this would be stronger if this were blank and you had the symmetrical thing here.

BRIEFER: We thought we would interrupt this mass.

MR. BUNSHAFT: That slot would be the same if you

put the floor in. Your glass would be where it is now.

BRIEFER: Yes, that's true, except it would relieve the mass.

MR. BUNSHAFT: This, to me, brings emphasis to a rather unpleasant little lump, too.

BRIEFER: You could rationalize it the other way. This back in here would sort of help this.

MR. BUNSHAFT: I think you could carry that line across. I am not talking about myself. I am talking about the four of us, the group. We think this motif isn't necessary here. I mean ideally. We could have this blank and emphasize that. But the plan is such that we have to have it here. This is a dogmatic thing,

We suggest that what your elevation shows is nicer than this because it recalls the force labs running right through.

I suppose this is necessary?

BRIEFER: It seems to be. This is a little involved with the zoning here, with a 45 setback, although we are under Article 75.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Do you need this little lump here?

BRIEFER: Well we have got to get one stair up into the penthouse.

MR. BUNSHAFT: What stair?

BRIEFER: This stair. And, also, there has to be some space here for the elevator. We have the elevator machines now in the basement. You see our elevators are back under there.

MR. BUNSHAFT: We might be able to explore what you have done here.

Well, anyhow, generally we think it is beautiful. But this we feel strongly about on this side. I think most of us think it is nice.

MR. WALTON: Do you want to say anything?

MR. BUNSHAFT: It is very nice.

MR. WALTON: Well we can hardly say more.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Is the building going to be as dark material as that?

BRIEFER: We are thinking of concrete. We haven't completely decided yet. I don't think we will do much to the concrete. color.

MR. WALTON: Well thank you very much. It is approved, as you can tell

V. 2.

MR. WALTON: They are trying to develop a recreational area here. It is a very unattractive area.

1 May 1970

Dear Mr. Brown:

At its meeting on April 15th, the Commission of Fine Arts rejected a design for the Kenilworth Information-Recreation Center on the Anacostia River near Watts Branch.

This facility is essentially a boat house, despite the official title, and presents an excellent opportunity to do a building with special character, light, open and inviting, a recreation pavillion on the water's edge. Not only does the design lack this character, but the plan is poorly organized and the public areas take no advantage of the view of the river which could be one of the more appealing elements of the design.

We strongly urge another start. This is an area of the city that has been too long neglected, and it would be a shame to miss the opportunity to do something good.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Joseph Brown
General Superintendent
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

EXHIBIT G

MR. WALTON: That's the point. We want to attract people to a dreary area, and this wouldn't do it.

Thank you very much.

V. 3

BRIEFER: Good morning, Gentlemen.

MR. BUNSHAFT: We think it is wonderful.

Now I think you have done a fine job by doing that, but what you have also done, which nobody talked about, the plan, as developed, is sort of diagonal this way. We all felt it was a nice way of solving a problem where you have to turn a corner. You get the feeling that the whole thing opens this way contrary to the reading of this plan. It reads like you have done a whole lot of work--not for our sake, but for your own. So this is all approved as far as the Commission is concerned, except that we understand that you might have some material samples.

BRIEFER: We have some preliminary materials that you might like to look at.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Yes.

That is the approach to solve this.

BRIEFER: We are trying to work that into the structure.

MR. BUNSHAFT: This is an interesting approach.

BRIEFER: We have a concrete sample which is not final, but it might give us something to talk about. We want to get something darker.

Now these are two samples of two shades of grey glass. This is a facsimile of the brick.

This is sand-blasted concrete, and we still have to study different aggregates of sand that are available. I think we might want to try something that is a little darker than this.

MRS. SMITH: I'd like to see it much darker.

MR. BUNSHAFT: What about using a better aggregate so that it has real power to it?

BRIEFER: I think it would be worth trying for.

MR. BUNSHAFT: I am talking about granite aggregate.

BRIEFER: Bigger?

MR. BUNSHAFT: Bigger, and you could get a rougher texture which might be very nice in a pretty, bold building.

BRIEFER: Yes. The only thing that concerns me is getting a decent seal in the windows. It means the glass would have to be set back.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Especially with your corners you might have some bold texture. I don't mean vulgar, but it would cost a little more--good granite chip or something.

BRIEFER: Yes. Well I think we will have to get more samples.

MR. WALTON: Well in a way, this is a historic moment. The only thing we are going to say is that we are going to miss you. You have been with us so long. You may not miss us, but I do want to thank all of you for your forbearance in a very difficult and long problem, and I certainly speak for my fellow Commissioners when I thank you very much for your understanding of our point of view and the problems we faced along with yours.

BRIEFER: I must say that I think it was to our advantage. It has improved immeasurably. We are very happy.

MR. WALTON: Very kind of you to say.

BRIEFER: I think the time is good because the financing looks like it is on the road, and the legal and other requirements of the Institute itself, and the legal aspects of being able to borrow money to do these things are all coming to a point now where I think we can proceed and I think we will be able to proceed.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Will it be late this fall?

BRIEFER: Yes.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Well after all this fighting I hope you won't sit around waiting for funds.

BRIEFER: I think it looks better for the possibility of building it now.

MRS. SMITH: I am just curious how you are coming out with the whole block.

VOICE: Well that is still a little bit up in the air. The people who acquired the building seem to have a grand idea of what the land is worth. We are still proceeding along that line. But I don't see anything coming very quick.

MRS. SMITH: Because of that whole block plan, I just wonder if you have a final chance?

BRIEFER: I don't know.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Wait a minute!= We are hasty in our approval. Is this wall going to stay like this?

BRIEFER: Well this is ghosted here now.

MR. WALTON: It isn't like that really.

BRIEFER: You see the steps come up to the left of this.

(Discussion off the record)

(Briefers depart)

MR. WALTON: Before everyone goes, I might bring up the matter of the next meeting. I don't know what date you decided on.

You know it is our 60th anniversary.

MR. ATHERTON: This is the chancery set-up of the Bureau of Standards.

MR. WALTON: Chloethiel, do you want to comment?

MRS. SMITH: Well I will start.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Now this is a planning thing that the planning people have approved as far as streets and stuff. The business is just theoretical.

MR. WALTON: Well I am always in favor of expressing any objection at this stage so that modifications can be made.

MRS. SMITH: Well if it is all right, I would like to say what I said before: There is a chance for a total design . . .

MR. SASAKI: That calls for a preliminary on all of these buildings and they can modify it to some degree I suppose.

MRS. SMITH: But they have to always go back to the plans modified.

I think the Federal Government is worse than anybody

MR. BUNSHAFT: You can do whatever you want to. This has been approved by the Planning Commission's allocation of the streets.

MR. WALTON: We can still put our fingerprints on

them.

MR. ATHERTON: This is Mr. Penland and this is Mr. Hall from the Architect's Office.

MR. WALTON: Well step right up. We will announce Mrs. Smith to give you her views on it.

Mrs. Smith, will you lead off?

MRS. SMITH: I think we have more questions than statements, but we have some statements. We are concerned that this terrific piece of land and wonderful design opportunity for the whole, as far as we understand it, are prejudiced by a certain preselection of location, if that is true, and with chanceries tucked in in the background. Because of that--and we realize the Planning Commission has approved the basic plan--we feel that as a total design there are all sorts of studies that must be given to the matter. Van Ness Street running through could become a more urban and very important related center to this whole. And, again, we realize that it has been allocated, but we feel it needs tremendous study with Federal Government buildings there and OAS, etc. And I think, in a sense, what we are asking for is what is usually done when there is planning for development, which is a more carefully designed study so that later there is something to judge against for each part, rather than

judge the mass, you know, and say that this comes here and that goes there.

MR. HALL: Something to establish a criterion?

MRS. SMITH: Yes. Something generally.

MR. PENLAND: Well if I could point out a couple of things that pretty much dictated the type of design, the legislation that was passed specifically bounded the site by these four streets--Van Ness, Connecticut Avenue, Tilden Street, and Reno Road--and the stipulation in the law was that an 8-acre area within this 37 acres, I think it is, be set aside specifically for the Organization of the American States' Headquarters. And it was the Planning Commission's feeling and the feeling of everyone who had been involved in this at all in the scope of work and in the long past history of the OAS Headquarters project that it receive a very prestigeous location on Connecticut Avenue.

I am sure you understand that the massing of the buildings here is just to indicate mass only. The design is going to be completely up to the desires of the OAS.

MR. BUNSHAFT: It might be one building instead of all of those little lumps.

MR. PENLAND: True. Yes.

MR. BUNSHAFT: All we are looking at is site

allocation and street plan.

MR. PENLAND: That is true to a certain extent, except that the law requires that the approval be by the Commission on Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission in lieu of zoning.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Are you planning to have that many chanceries?

MR. PENLAND: At this point there is designation of 14 sites. Yes.

MR. HALL: The buildings are represented by the numbers of sites.

MR. BUNSHAFT: We think they are too small. What sort of countries would they be.

MR. PENLAND: They sort of run the gamut of European countries. There are 27 that have expressed interest. The people from the State Department are not here.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Well we question whether you can have good sized ones. Those look like little houses.

MR. HALL: I think the average would house 50 employees.

MR. WALTON: Which is small.

MR. PENLAND: They range in employee size from 7 to 250.

MR. WALTON: Gordon, I think the problem is that they want to keep it from being purely African or purely South American. It is a balanced program.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Well some may be large and some may be small. They may be entirely different in character.

All you are approving is a street pattern.

MR. WALTON: That's right.

MR. BUNSHAFT: As long as you are not going to say that there will be 14.

MR. PENLAND: That's not necessarily true. That's right.

MR. BUNSHAFT: That might help.

MR. HALL? We have identified certain of these sites that would accommodate larger chanceries, and we would like sales to be made on that basis primarily on Van Ness Street. These would be smaller back here. And these sites or property lines are flexible, particularly in this group so that a country could buy more than one--not necessaril two, evenly.

MR. PENLAND: But one and a portion of another.

MR. HALL: Right. But the property lines would be flexible within certain limits.

MR. BUNSHAFT: All you are asking us is to approve

the street pattern.

MR. PENLAND: Well we are submitting this for your information so that you will know what is coming at a later date.

MR. HALL: We do want your comments.

MR. PENLAND: Gentlemen, this is Mr. Hampton Davis in the Office of the Chief of Protocol.

MR. SASAKI: These were the questions we had: whether you had a plan to accommodate the larger buildings so the large and small could be interspersed.

MR. HALL: A good bit of this will have to take place in the sales end of it--in the control activities of the State Department.

MR. SASAKI: But we would advise you to think that through in terms of massing in the second part of your statement.

You know at the present point it is impossible for us to approve or disapprove because this is all fantasy at the moment. It is only the land plan.

And the criticism, as we mentioned before, this is too much like subdivision designation of lots. If you could designate the zone for the larger buildings, it would be better. There would then be an articulation of the plan.

MR. HALL: That was our direction. It is not clearly stated. This was an early study. It was around October.

MR. BUNSHAFT: Well, all we can say is that we have seen your plan.

MR. SASAKI: We would be extremely interested in any subsequent development. Then we can react.

MR. HALL: I think these are valid criticisms, and we will make these more clear.

MR. SASAKI: One thing we would suggest is in those lots where you take the approach of a subdivision technique it is essential that you get most of the parking under cover; otherwise this plan would be awkward.

MR. HALL: Let me point out two or three things that would clarify the overview.

These are representative of space requirements and space allowances. This does represent the number of square feet of parking required and the number of square feet in the total employment center.

We are setting up in the control, which we hope can be made to stick in it, that all parking, with certain minor exceptions, would be under cover and out of sight. And the minor exceptions would be a few visitor parking spaces. But this, I think, in the larger chanceries would be limited to 10

to 15 automobiles.

MR. BUNSHAFT: They would all provide their garages.

MR. WALTON: They would have to provide their own.

MR. HALL: It would be mandatory.

MR. SASAKI: And then another observation:

When you deal with a matter of this nature where each country wants to assert itself, you want lots of buffer area, green area. In your regulations you ought to require or encourage planting something in between--garden walls, etc.

MR. HALL: We have set up a beginning on that. We have buffers for external conditions. This is a park over here. In an area like this where this is the chancery expansion area, this will become a part of the chancery site, but we will impose restrictions to keep them from building here (indicating). This maintains a buffer situation in these two elements.

We would allow these to go higher to effect a transition from here down to the smaller units. These are being kept small because they are single-family residential property across the street.

We would allow perhaps the ones on the ends to begin to move up toward the massing of OAS, but would require the buildings along the rear of OAS to be scaled down so that

There isn't an abrupt change. We don't want this to be big brother and we don't want this to be big brother.to the chancery.

MR. PENLAND: There is one other point that I think might be helpful.

In the scope of work that we have with Mr.Sun's firm and in discussions with the State Department we decided that we would establish control criteria that would be incorporated and recorded with the plat in the Recorder of Deeds' office so that there will be specific requirements to act as zone regulations for the individual parcels. This is being developed now, and we hope within the next month we hope to have it at a point where it will be approvable.

MRS. SMITH: But the development of those controls until there is a total design is not very helpful. They should express a total design because I think Van Ness has become a suburban kind of street rather than a very strong urban kind of place.

MR. WALTON: I think we have expressed as much as we can, or need to, from our point of view. You now understand our position on it, and we thank you for coming.

(Briefers depart)

MR. WALTON: That takes us to the end of our agenda,

1 May 1970

Dear Mr. Sampson:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on April 16th, reviewed the preliminary master plan for the OAS Headquarters and Chancery Sites and the Federal Office Complex.

A number of questions were raised by the Commission. For example, it was thought that the development of the Chancery sites along Van Ness Street might have a more uniform urban character. As the plan now stands, the large federal complex is located immediately to the north of Van Ness Street, while much smaller sites for chanceries adjoin the south side. The Commission feels that this area should be subdivided to accommodate larger scale buildings, thus providing more uniformity to both sides of the street. This approach might also apply to the sites immediately west of the area assigned to the buildings. These and other elements of the plan were discussed with the architect in some detail. We hope they can be thoroughly studied before the adoption of any final plan.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. A. F. Sampson
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

EXHIBIT J

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 April 1970

AM
10:00 I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. ADMINISTRATION

a. Dates of Next Meetings: 20 May and 17 June 1970

b. Approval of the Minutes of 25 February 1970 Meeting

III. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

1. D. C. Government, Department of Economic Development

a. Shipstead-Luce Act

(1) American Institute of Architects Headquarters Building, 18th and New York Ave., N.W. - Revised Design

(2) Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Operations Control Center Building, Sq. 487 bounded by G, F, 6th and 5th Sts. - Proposed Design (S.L. 70-32)

(3) 425-2nd St., N.E., New Office Building - Proposed Design (S.L. 70-30)

(4) Appendix 1

b. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2

2. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

Preliminary Master Plan for the Organization of American States Headquarters and Chancery Sites and the Federal Office Complex, Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road, N.W.

3. D. C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Waterfront Proposal, Site E

4. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

a. Father Flanagan Memorial, Michigan Ave. and Harewood Road, N.W. - Revised Design

b. Kenilworth Information-Recreation Center - Mouth of Watts Branch on Eastern Shore of the Anacostia River Below Kenilworth Gardens - Proposed Developed Area Plan

5. Institute of Heraldry

Secretary of Defense Distinguished Service Medal

IV. LEGISLATION

S. 3206 - To appropriate a site for a museum of man for the Smithsonian Institution.

H.R. 15622 - To provide for establishment of a memorial in the National Arboretum to Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe.

V. INTERVIEWS

11:00 1. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Operations Control Center Building, Sq. 487 bounded by G, F, 6th and 5th Sts., Proposed Design (S.L. 70-32)

11:15 2. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Kenilworth Information-Recreation Center - Mouth of Watts Branch on Eastern Shore of the Anacostia River Below Kenilworth Gardens - Proposed Developed Area Plan

11:30 3. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

American Institute of Architects Headquarters Building, 18th and New York Ave., N.W. - Revised Design

11:45 4. D. C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Waterfront Proposal, Site E

12:00 5. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

Preliminary Master Plan for the Organization of American States Headquarters and Chancery Sites and the Federal Office Complex, Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road, N.W.

6. *Freer Gallery of Art*

Inspection of Proposed Acquisitions